

Appln. No.: 09/978,158  
 Amendment Dated March 28, 2005  
 Reply to Office Action of December 27, 2004

SAR 13924

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace paragraph [0102] with the following amended paragraph [0102]:

[0102] Next, it is determined if the process of improving the local depth maps has reached a predetermined maximum number of iterations, step 410. If this number has been reached the present depth map is selected as the final local depth map, step 414. If the number has not been reached, the most recent set of depth changes is analyzed, step 412. If the changes are less than a predetermined criterion, then the present depth map is selected as the final local depth map, step 414. Otherwise, the process returns to step 404 and another iteration of depth hypotheses begun. It should be noted that the exemplary ordering of steps 410 and 412 has been selected, since step 410 is less computationally demanding, but these steps may be reversed, or either one may be omitted.

Please replace the paragraph [0109] with the following amended paragraph [0109]:

[0109] where  $\Phi$  represents the cooperative zone, and  $e(x, y, x'y')$  is the similarity function for pixels  $(x, y)$  and  $(x', y')$  in the reference image. To reinforce the uniqueness constraint, the inhibition,  $R_n(x, y, d)$ , for voxel  $(x, y, d)$  is given by equation (3)

$$R_n(x, y, d) = \frac{1}{\max_{(x', y', d') \in \Theta} S_n(x', y', d')}$$

$$R_n(x, y, d) = \frac{1}{\max_{(x', y', d') \in \Theta} S_n(x', y', d')} \quad (3)$$